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Israel and Egypt Approve Use of U.S. Aircraft to Monitor Compliance With Troop-Separation Accord

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—Israel and Egypt have independently accepted an American proposal for the use of United States reconnaissance aircraft and satellites to monitor compliance with their troop-separation agreement along the Suez Canal, diplomats and Administration officials said today.

The unusual understanding was worked out by Secretary of State Kissinger during his recent Middle East trip and was conveyed by him in writing to both the Israeli and Egyptian—still unpublished—annex to the disengagement agreement, which was signed on Jan. 18.

Under the plan, both Israel and Egypt agree to having the United States serve as an impartial observer. But there is reportedly no commitment for the United States to do anything to enforce the accord, diplomats and officials said.

Administration officials said the United States had long used satellites in the area, as had the Soviet Union.

Checking on Agreement

Occasional reconnaissance by aircraft, particularly the high-flying SR-71's, has been reported in the Suez area, but this is the first time in any official's memory that two sovereign states have agreed to have a third nation fly reconnaissance missions over territory they control.

The United States intends to

carry out such flights, officials said, but it was not possible to learn whether any had taken place since Jan. 18.

Officials said that because of the sovereignty issue, of particular sensitivity to the Egyptians, the wording of the understanding was rather general and was omitted from the published agreement, which consists only of terms agreed to directly by Israel and Egypt.

American officials said that Mr. Kissinger worked out the system so that Israel and Egypt could count on having the United States check on the way the agreement was being carried out without having to agree directly between themselves on the American role.

Role for Others

As a result of his conversations with both sides, Mr. Kissinger separately told each party that the other had accepted the idea of the United States' ability to observe compliance with the agreement.

It was understood that the United States did not specify how the reconnaissance would be done. But both sides were said to have accepted observation flights by American aircraft and the continued use of photographic satellites.

In addition, the published part of the agreement permits Egypt and Israel to send their own planes up to the lines delineating their zones near the Suez Canal.

Since the disengagement

area only extends for about 20 miles, with a United Nations buffer in the middle, the planes of either side could presumably also photograph the other party's activity.

Unpublished Aspects

What is significant about the American reconnaissance role, officials said, is that in case of a dispute between Egypt and Israel, the United States could act as an umpire.

Some kind of independent observer was deemed necessary—particularly by the Israelis—because of the unpublished section in the disengagement accord putting specific limits on the men and equipment allowed by each side in their disengagement areas.

For instance, it has been made known that both sides are limited to no more than 7,000 men and 30 tanks in the immediate troop-separation areas, and that no surface-to-air missiles are permitted in them.

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